GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3039
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Internet and PDS Rations
Jayadevan Shri C. N.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of a media report under the caption "Need internet to buy PDS rations? Go climb a tree";
(b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto; and
(c) whether the Government is likely to reconsider its decision to make Aadhaar compulsory for PDS in view of the poor internet connectivity in some parts of the country particularly the rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The report was published in a national daily newspaper "The Times of India" on 03.03.2017. The matter pertains to Kotra Tehsil of Udaipur District, Rajasthan. As per the information furnished by State Government, there is poor net connectivity in the "Lambahaldoo region of Kotra Tehsil of Udaipur District. The necessary instructions have been issued to States/UTs for no denial of subsidized food grains in case there is transaction failure/ technology failure/ network connectivity issues/power connectivity issues etc. The issue of poor network connectivity in some places has been also brought to the notice of Department of Telecommunication.
(c): A notification dated 8th February, 2017 issued by the Department in pursuance of the provisions of Section 7 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 for use of Aadhaar as identity document for delivery of services/benefits/subsidies that simplifies the Government delivery processes, brings in transparency and efficiency and enables beneficiaries to get their entitlement directly in a convenient and seamless manner and Aadhaar obviates the need for producing multiple documents to prove one's identity.
****